

The morse requirement should be retained for amateur radio HF licenses for the following reasons:

1. In emergency communications, this may be the only mode of transmission available to the station seeking assistance. This could happen due to damage to a microphone cable or the microphone itself. Two wires are all that is required to touch together to send a morse message.
2. Knowledge of morse allows messages to be sent by lights or horns such as by a stranded motorist or boater.
3. With the exception of PSK31, morse is among the most spectrum efficient modes and uses 20 times less than ssb voice and also less than most digital modes.
4. Morse is the only manual mode that can be used without a computer other than voice. Morse can be used in conditions where voice will not.
5. If amateurs are not required to learn morse, they can not use it.
6. Morse is not dead. Morse contest weekends find the amateur bands overcrowded with morse signals. Last month, two U.S.C.G stations transmitted morse along with KPH, KSM, WLO and KLB. Several stations were called by ships using morse.
7. Morse is more accurate with a unique sound for each letter compared to voice. Traffic is sent using phonetics on voice to avoid errors. This is not required on morse. Experienced morse traffic handlers prefer the mode for this reason. The spoken word is faster but accurate messages are slower than morse with phonetics.
8. Tradition – amateur radio began in the spark era with morse. A morse free service exists for those not willing to work for the privilege of amateur radio.
9. Anyone can pass a morse exam. I was a VE at a test session where an applicant paralyzed from the neck down passed the 13 wpm exam by yelling out the character just sent before the next character was sent at normal 13 wpm speed. He did this more than the 65 times consecutive times required by the rules.